JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS					
Gary Willis				Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; Verizon					
(h) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c				Experient mormation Solutions, Inc., Verizon					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia County (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			y, PA				ige County, CA		
		71010)		NOTE: IN LAND CO	ONDEMNATI	LAINTIFF CASES (ON CASES, USE T	O <i>NLY)</i> HE LOCATION (OF	
()				THE TRACT	T OF LAND IN	NVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Zemel Law LLC	Address, and Telephone Numb	er)		Attorneys (If Known)					
1373 Broad Street, Suite	203-C								
Clifton, New Jersey 0701	13 T: 862-227-3106								
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in (One Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in	One Box f	or Plainti
☐ 1 U.S. Government	★ 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Only)	TF DEF		and One Box fo	or Defenda	int)
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citize		1 0 1	Incorporated or Pr		PTF	DEF
2 U.S. Government	G 4 Dimente					of Business In T	his State		
Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	nip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	1 2 🗖 2	Incorporated and I of Business In A		5	5
	i		Citize	en or Subject of a	12 7 2		mother State		10 <u></u> > /10 ->
IV NATURE OF CUIT				reign Country	3 🗆 3	Foreign Nation		□ 6	1 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) ORTS	I FO	PRFEITURE/PENALTY	Click	here for: Nature of			
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJUR		5 Drug Related Seizure		KRUPTCY al 28 USC 158	☐ 375 False Cla	STATUTI	ES
☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product	☐ 365 Personal Injury -		of Property 21 USC 881	☐ 423 Witho	irawal	376 Qui Tam	(31 USC	
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	Product Liability 367 Health Care/	D 690	0 Other	28 U	SC 157	3729(a))		and the same of th
150 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	Pharmaceutical			PROPER	TY RIGHTS	☐ 400 State Rea ☐ 410 Antitrust		nent
& Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act	CARLES CONTROL	Personal Injury	- 1		☐ 820 Copy	rights	430 Banks an	nd Banking	g
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	☐ 330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal			□ 830 Paten		☐ 450 Commer	ce	
Student Loans	☐ 340 Marine	Injury Product				t - Abbreviated Drug Application	460 Deportat		ad and
(Excludes Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product	Liability			☐ 840 Trade		☐ 470 Racketee	Organizatio	
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL PROPER		LABOR	SOCIAL	SECURITY	X 480 Consume	er Credit	ons
160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	☐ 370 Other Fraud ☐ 371 Truth in Lending	D 710	Fair Labor Standards Act	☐ 861 HIA (490 Cable/Sa		
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	☐ 380 Other Personal	720	Labor/Management	862 Black	C/DIWW (405(g))	☐ 850 Securitie Exchang		lities/
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	☐ 360 Other Personal	Property Damage		Relations	☐ 864 SSID		☐ 890 Other Sta		tions
3 170 Hanchise	Injury 362 Personal Injury -	☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability		Railway Labor Act Family and Medical	☐ 865 RSI (4	105(g))	☐ 891 Agricultu	ıral Acts	
	Medical Malpractice	Troduct Liability	131	Leave Act			☐ 893 Environm ☐ 895 Freedom		
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITION	NS 🗆 790	Other Labor Litigation	FEDERA	L TAX SUITS	Act	or informa	ation
210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights ☐ 441 Voting	Habeas Corpus:	791	Employee Retirement	☐ 870 Taxes	(U.S. Plaintiff	☐ 896 Arbitratio	on	
3 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 442 Employment	☐ 463 Alien Detainee ☐ 510 Motions to Vacate		Income Security Act		fendant)	☐ 899 Administ		
J 240 Torts to Land	☐ 443 Housing/	Sentence			□ 871 IRS—	Third Party SC 7609		ew or App	eal of
245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations	☐ 530 General			20 00	JC 7007	Agency I	ionality of	
290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	535 Death Penalty Other:	-	IMMIGRATION			State Stat		
	1 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -		er 1 462	Naturalization Application Other Immigration					
	Other	☐ 550 Civil Rights	.	Actions					
	☐ 448 Education	555 Prison Condition							
		☐ 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of	- 1						
		Confinement							
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in									
	te Court	Appellate Court	J 4 Reins Reope	ened Another (specify)	r District	☐ 6 Multidistri Litigation Transfer	- I	Multidisti Litigation Direct File	1 -
	Cité the U.S. Civil Sta	tute under which you are	e filing (De	o not cite jurisdictional state	utes unless div	ersity):		THE THE	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of ca	ting Act, 15 U.S.C.	1681 et :	seq.					
	Illegal and false of	redit reporting							
VII. REQUESTED IN	CHECK IF THIS	IS A CLASS ACTION	DE	MAND S	CH	HECK YES only i	f demanded in o	complaint	t:
COMPLAINT: /III. RELATED CASE	UNDER RULE 2	5, F.K.CV.P.			JU	RY DEMAND:	X Yes	□No	
IF ANY	(See instructions):								
	1	JUDGE			DOCKET	NUMBER			
ATE 2/17/2019		SIGNATURE OF ATT	ORNEY OF	RECORD /	P				
2/17/2018 OR OFFICE USE ONLY				1/	die				
RECEIPT # AM	OUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG JUDO	3F		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting (c)
- Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" II. in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked. Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code IV. that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C.

Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Gary Willis,	Case No.:
Plaintiff,	
vs.	COMPLAINT
Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; Verizon,)	
Defendants.	
)	

Plaintiff, Gary Willis (hereinafter "Plaintiff") alleges:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an action for damages arising from violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.* (hereinafter "FCRA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 15 U.S.C. §1692k (d).
- 3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C §1391(b).

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff is a natural person who at all relevant times has resided in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 5. Defendant Experian Information Solutions, Inc. ("Experian") is a business entity that regularly conducts business in Pennsylvania with its principal place of business as 475 Anton Blvd. Costa Mesa, California 92626. Experian is a "consumer reporting agency," as defined in 15 U.S.C.

- § 1681a(f) and engaged in the business of assembling, evaluating, and disbursing information concerning consumers for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports, as defined in 15 U.S.C. §1681 a(d), to third parties.
- 6. Defendant Verizon ("Verizon") is a business entity that regularly conducts business in Pennsylvania with its principal place of business located at 500 Technology Drive, Suite 300 Weldon Spring, Missouri 63304. Verizon regularly and in the ordinary course of business furnishes information to various consumer reporting agencies regarding Verizon's transactions with consumers, and is a "furnisher" of information as contemplated by FCRA § 1681s-2(a) & (b).

BACKGROUND

- 7. There are two types of reporting entities on consumer credit reports. One type of reporting entity is the credit reporting agency ("CRA"), which reports information about the Plaintiff to users of these credit reports. The second type is called a Furnisher in the credit reporting industry. A Furnisher is a creditor that furnishes information related to its experience with the Plaintiff to the CRAs.
- 8. Credit reporting activities of the CRAs are regulated by the FCRA.
- 9. The FCRA's purpose is to ensure that CRAs follow proper procedure in ensuring that a consumer's credit report is reporting accurately.
- 10. Every credit report contains a number of lines representing a placeholder for a specific Furnisher to report about a debt or credit line incurred by a consumer. These lines are known as trade lines.
- 11. Trade lines have a number of fields which convey a significant amount of information to prospective creditors and which directly affect FICO credit scores.

12. The Date of Status field represents the day a debt is deemed uncollectible and thus charged off. *Toliver v. Experian Info. Solutions, Inc.*, 973 F. Supp. 2d 707, 725 (S.D. Tex. 2013). The Date of Status corresponds to a separate Status segment of the trade line. The Status segment reveals various forms of information concerning the trade line. The Date of Status should remain uniform throughout each credit report disclosing the trade line as this date does not change regardless of whether the original creditor sells the debt to a third party.

FACTUAL STATEMENT

- 13. Plaintiff allegedly owed debt due to Verizon for a utility bill for personal, familial and household use.
- 14. In an attempt to collect on the debt, Verizon placed a trade line on Plaintiff's credit report, bearing account number 554008697XXXX.
- 15. On or about November 2017, Plaintiff noticed that the trade line was inaccurately reporting the Date of Status as December 2015 and the First Reported Date as December 2015.
- 16. Plaintiff disputed the trade line with Experian in a letter dated November 9, 2017.
- 17. Thereafter, in response to Plaintiff's dispute, on the Experian credit report, the Date of Status for the account was changed to December 2017 on a December 21, 2017 credit report. As mentioned above, the Date of Status is static and cannot accurately change because there was no change in account history.
- 18. Moreover, in response to Plaintiff's dispute, on the Experian credit report, the First Reported Date on the account was changed to November 2017 on the December 21, 2017 credit report. The First Reported Date is static and cannot accurately change.

- 19. Upon information and belief, Verizon's erroneous reporting to Experian resulted in the date changes. After Plaintiff's request to investigate, Verizon failed to reasonably investigate the dispute.
- 20. Experian failed to conduct a reasonable investigation into the accuracy of the trade line, and allowed/enabled Verizon to erroneously change reporting dates on Plaintiff's credit report.
- 21. Experian would have discovered the misleading information had it conducted a good faith reasonable investigation, or had adequate reporting procedures in place.
- 22. The reporting of this information negatively reflects on Plaintiff's credit worthiness by lowering his credit score and negatively affecting credit decisions.

COUNT I VIOLATION OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT BY EXPERIAN

- 23. Plaintiff realleges the above paragraphs as if recited specifically set forth at length herein.
- 24. Defendant Experian prepared, compiled, issued, assembled, transferred, published and otherwise reproduced consumer reports regarding Plaintiff as that term is used and defined under 15 U.S.C. § 1681a.
- 25. Said reports contained information about Plaintiff that was false, misleading, and inaccurate.
- 26. Experian negligently and willfully failed to maintain and/or follow reasonable procedures to assure maximum possible accuracy of the information it reported to one or more third parties pertaining to Plaintiff, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1681e(b).
- 27. After receiving Plaintiff's disputes highlighting the errors, Experian negligently and willfully failed to conduct a reasonable investigation as required by 15 U.S.C. § 1681i.

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- 28. As a direct and proximate cause of Experian's failure to perform its duties under the FCRA, Plaintiff has suffered actual damages, mental anguish, humiliation, and embarrassment.
- 29. Experian's conduct, action and inaction was willful, rendering it liable for actual and statutory damages, and punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the Court pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n. In the alternative, Experian was negligent entitling the Plaintiff to recover actual damages under 15 U.S.C. § 1681o.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF PRAYS that this court grant him a judgment against Experian for the greater of statutory or actual damages, plus punitive damages along with costs, interest, and attorney's fees.

COUNT II VIOLATION OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT BY VERIZON

- 30. Plaintiff realleges the above paragraphs as if recited specifically set forth at length herein.
- 31. At all times pertinent hereto, Verizon was a "person" as that term is used and defined under 15 U.S.C. § 1681a.
- 32. Verizon willfully and negligently supplied Experian with information about Plaintiff that was false, misleading, and inaccurate.
- 33. Verizon willfully and negligently failed to conduct an investigation of the inaccurate information that Plaintiff disputed, and continued to report dates that were inaccurate.
- 34. Verizon willfully and negligently failed to report the results of its investigation to the relevant consumer reporting agencies.
- 35. Verizon willfully and negligently failed to properly participate, investigate, and comply with the reinvestigations that were conducted by any and all credit reporting agencies, concerning the inaccurate information disputed by Plaintiff.

36. Verizon willfully and negligently continued to furnish and disseminate inaccurate and

derogatory credit, account, and other information concerning Plaintiff to credit reporting agencies.

37. Verizon willfully and negligently failed to comply with the requirements imposed on

furnishers of information pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b).

38. Verizon's conduct, action and inaction was willful, rendering it liable for actual and

statutory damages, and punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the Court pursuant to

15 U.S.C. § 1681n. In the alternative, Verizon was negligent, entitling the Plaintiff to recover

actual damages under 15 U.S.C. § 1681o.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF PRAYS that this court grant him a judgment against Verizon for

the greater of statutory or actual damages, plus punitive damages along with costs, interest, and

attorney's fees.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

39. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Dated this 17th day of December 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas Linker, Esq. ID# 321521

Zemel Law LLC

1373 Broad Street, Suite 203-C

Clifton, New Jersey 07013

(Tel): 862-227-3106 nl@zemellawllc.com

Case 2:18-cv-05499-GAM Document 1 Filed 12/20/18 Page 9 of 11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM
(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the

Address of Plaintiff: 1512 North 15th Street, Apt B Philade	elphia, PA 19121	
Address of Defendant: 475 Anton Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA 92626/ 500 Technology Drive	e, Suite 300, Weldon Spring, MO 63304	
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 1512 North 15th Street, Apt B		
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:		
Case Number: Judge:	Date Terminated:	
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions:	Date Terminated.	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?	Yes No 🗸	
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?	Yes No 🗸	
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?	Yes No 🗸	
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No Verification of the same individual?		
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related to any case now pending or withis court except as noted above. DATE: 12/17/2018 Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff	within one year previously terminated action in 321521 Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)	
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)		
3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 2. Airplane Personal 4. Antitrust 3. Assault, Defamat 4. Marine Personal 5. Patent 5. Motor Vehicle Personal 5. Motor Vehicle Personal 6. Labor-Management Relations 6. Other Personal In 7. Civil Rights 7. Products Liability 8. Habeas Corpus 8. Products Liability 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 9. All other Diversity 10. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Securities	act and Other Contracts al Injury tion Injury ersonal Injury njury (Please specify): y - Asbestos	
ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION		
(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for	or arbitration.)	
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the darexceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:	mages recoverable in this civil action case	
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.		
DATE:		
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.	Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)	

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address			
862-227-3106	973-282-8603	nl@zemellawllc.com			
Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for			
12/17/2018	Nicholas Linker	Plaintiff, Gary Willis			
(I) Standard Managem	ent – Cases that do not fall into any o	one of the other tracks.	(X)		
the court. (See reversion management cases.)	·	or intense management by splanation of special	()		
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.					
			()		
 (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. 					
 (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Security – Cases requesting review. 					
	Tases brought under 28 U.S.C. 8 224		()		
filing the complaint and side of this form.) In designation, that defen the plaintiff and all oth	e Civil Justice Expense and Delay Re a Case Management Track Designard serve a copy on all defendants. (See the event that a defendant does not dant shall, with its first appearance, a ler parties, a Case Management Track to believes the case should be assigned.	§ 1:03 of the plan set forth on the re agree with the plaintiff regarding submit to the clerk of court and ser	me of everse g said		
and the state of t		NO.			
EXPERIAN INFORMA VERIZON;	V. ATION SOLUTIONS, INC.;				
	:	CIVIL ACTION			

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Gary Willis

Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track

- (a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.
- (b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.
- (c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.
- (d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.
- (e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS (See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual stockholder's tockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.